THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir. This conversion has not been considered justified.

(b) No, Sir.

(c): The work has not been ap proved-

Free and cheap drugs for common man

113. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY;

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal tinder Government's consideration to make available free and cheap drugs to the common man;

(b) if so, what are the names of the States which are litely to be covered under this scheme;

(c) what annual expenditure is likely to be incurred for the purpose; and

(d) wb/sther Government propose to increase the Budget allocation unit der this Head?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF HEALTH- AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) to (d) Supply of drugs to the needy patients is arranged by State Government |Union Territory Administrations through hospitals, dispensaries and Primary Health Centres | sub-centres. State Governments have their own programme and criteria for supply of medicines through different health institutions subject to availability of financial resources. During the Seventh Five-Year Plan, out of a total outlay of Rs. 2495. 55 crores for Health sector, an amount of Rs. 1063. 35 crores is meant for establishment of health " institutions in . rural areas and includes the cost of supply of drugs. From Central Government an amount of Rs. 20001- per . annum is provided for supply of drugs to each health sub-centre established during the Sixth Plan and later. An amount of Rs. 60001- pea annum is also provided to each Primary Health Centre covered under the Village Health Guide Scheme.

Children born blind

*114. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have con ducted any survey to find out the number of children who are born blind during the las* 3 years; and

(b)i i| so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) No specific survey to find ou£ the number of children bom blind has been uo-dertaken.

(b) Does not arise.

Setting up «f electronic! automata exchanges

* 115. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to s ate the names of the cities in the country where electronic automatic exchanges are proposed to be installed auring the current year?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.